

SUMMER "72" NORTH AND NORTHWEST AREAS

Summer 1972, good news or bad news? It depends on the individual course and how you appraise the facts.

An old Indian chief whose tribe was starving told his eldest son, "Running Deer" to go forth in search of food for the tribe. Upon Running Deer's return, the chief anxiously asked his son what news he brought. Running Deer replied that he brought both good news and bad news. The chief asked him for the bad news first and Running Deer related that he had traveled in every direction for 40 miles and found nothing to eat but buffalo dung. When the chief asked for the good news Running Deer swiftly replied, "There's plenty of it."

Good news or bad news, see how your year compares to the following comments from Superintendents from the North and Northwest area.

PETER BILD — GLEN FLORA COUNTRY CLUB

Pete says he had a good year generally speaking. Persistent dollar spot gave him some trouble.

HAROLD MICHELS — McHENRY COUNTRY CLUB

Quote — "Anything unusual this year? No, if you call all year's supply of rain in three months normal. No, if you figure to have four areas that you can't mow for six weeks because they are too wet. No, if you consider six new springs popping up all over the course. Outside of this everything is normal."

JOE DINELLI — NORTH SHORE COUNTRY CLUB

Joe reports a good year. Used a little more fungicide than normal, but had no major problems. Some guys just live right!

BEN KRONN — TWIN ORCHARD COUNTRY CLUB

Those close to Ben know he is inclined to exaggerate the dismal conditions and near collapse of his course. However, I personally inspected his place not long ago and found it in its usual near perfect condition. Ben did admit he was considerably over his fungicide budget for the year.

PAUL VOYKIN — BRIARWOOD COUNTRY CLUB

"Super Saturation." "Extreme temperature changes." "Increased Traffic." "Horse Manure." These are just a few of the phrases uttered by Paul. Most of Briarwood's troubles according to Paul were brought on by uncontrollable environmental conditions. Helminth was persistent on some of his greens.

BOB WILKINS — BILTMORE COUNTRY CLUB

Bob thinks he had a better year than last year, when he experienced a water shortage. Biltmore has a lot of peat soil which must be kept fairly moist. This year that was no problem for Bob. He did have some mild wilt and brown patch in fairways.

BOB WILLIAMS — BOB O'LINK COUNTRY CLUB

OBSERVATIONS, 1972 SEASON

The Summer of 1972 has proven to be wet, hot, and humid and a difficult one for turfgrass. However, due to local variance in rainfall frequency and quantity, some courses have withstood the elements while others have encountered a degree of damage to turfgrass areas.

At Bob O'Link we encountered 5 inches of rain one week in mid-July followed by a stretch of over-70 degree nights and over-90 degree days. This situation triggered fairway pythium and dollarspot attacks. An identical weather picture struck us again in the last ten days of August. In both cases we were hit with about ten acres of flooding with 6 to 12 inches

of water. It took about two days for the water to recede in both instances.

In my estimation, we have been very fortunate in keeping turfgrass damage to a bare minimum in view of the circumstances. Chemical fungicides applied to the fairways have been a savior this year. We have made 9 applications to the fairways this season. Some of these were spot spraying but mostly to the entire fairway areas.

Dollarspot has been very stubborn to control this season, even with the new systemics. Pythium seems to be under some control with the newer pythium specific.

The weather of 1972 has also made it difficult for putting green maintenance. Overly wet, soft, greens have made it rough for mowing and true putting. Low fertility programs seemed to be an asset this season in reducing the tendency for puffing and scalping in adverse weather conditions.

All in all, this has been a season where good drainage far outweighs good irrigation capabilities. We must have set an all time record for the least number of times irrigation has been required for an entire season.

Without the advance in technology for turfgrass maintenance in recent years, 1972 would have been a disaster year according to standards of 10 to 12 years ago.

MIKE BAVIER — INVERNESS COUNTRY CLUB

The extreme last year was lack of rain — this summer it is the abundance of it. We have had our area (Palatine) one of the wettest summers in many years. My very unofficial record from April 15 thru August 30 measures some 31.6 inches.

The abundance of rain is not always a problem. The biggest problem to me is the hot humid weather we have following the rains. The disease on the course becomes active and the grass just plain looks sick. We try to time our chemical applications and change combinations of chemicals, all with little effect until the weather cools off.

Yes, we have had another year of weather extremes, but cooler weather will be coming and I'll be smiling again because fall is on its way.

Summer "72" did not seem like that kind of a year, but I'm sure it will be long remembered by many. It was a year of extremes. Record low temperatures set on several days followed by near record high temperatures. Example; 47° low on August ninth and a 96° high on August 15. Barrington unofficial temperatures. In general, the North and Northwest areas fared better weather wise than the rest of the district, although I'm sure there are those who will disagree, especially if a freak windstorm or cloud burst hit his course.

For me at Barrington Hills it was an F.M. year. Before you mentally substitute your own words for these initials, they stand for Fungus and Mosquitoes. Between July 10 and July 27, we sprayed 11,000 gallons of fungicide solution on tees, greens, and fairways and gave up 26 gallons of blood.

Bad news? Humidity and heat. Good news? It did not last too long and hunting season is not far away!

John C. Ebel
Superintendent Barrington Hills C. C.